

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4637

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: HOSTING FUTURE NPG MEETINGS

1. IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL HOST THE SPRING 1975 NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP (NPG) MEETING. ASSUMING PAST PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, ONE MEMBER SHOULD OFFER TO HOST THE MEETING PRIOR TO THE FORTHCOMING NPG IN ROME. FORMER IS DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR PLANNING (SEIM) RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH BRIEFLY PRIOR TO HIS RECENT DEPARTURE, BUT DEFERRED TAKING ANY OTHER SOUNDINGS PENDING ARRIVAL OF HIS REPLACEMENT AT THE END OF AUGUST. THE MISSION WILL NEED WASHINGTON GUIDANCE FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT WITH THE IS AND THE ALLIES.

2. THREE COUNTRIES ARE PRIME CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT TWO OR THREE NPG MEETINGS- THE US, BELGIUM AND DENMARK. THE US LAST HOSTED A MEETING IN THE FALL OF 1969. AS OF THE ROME NPG MEETING, ALL PERMENENT MEMBERS WILL HAVE HOSTED TWO MEETINGS, AND THE US WILL BE NEXT IN LINE AMONG THE PERMENENT MEMBERS. AMONG THE ROTATING MEMBERS, TURKEY, WHICH REPLACES GREECE IN MARCH 1975, HAS ALREADY HOSTED TWO MEETINGS. PORTUGAL IS AN UNCERTAIN FACTOR
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AT THIS TIME. THAT LEAVES BELGIUM AND DENMARK, EACH OF WHICH HAS HOSTED ONE MEETING- BELGIUM IN THE FALL OF 1971 AND DENMARK IN THE SPRING OF 1972. ROTATING MEMBERS HOSTED THE LAST THREE NPG MEETINGS (BERGEN, THE HAGUE, ANKARA).

3. CONSEQUENTLY, THE US WILL PROBABLY BE SEEN AS A LOGICAL CHOICE TO HOST THE SPRING THE 1975 NPG MEETING. WE ANTICIPATE THAT A US OFFER TO DO SO WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WASHINGTON DOES NOT WANT TO HOST THE SPRING 1975 MEETING, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO STEER BELGIUM OR DENMARK TOWARD A DECISION TO HOST, PARTICULARLY IF THE US COULD OFFER AN ATTRACTIVE REASON FOR DELAY SUCH AS A DESIRE TO HOST A MEETING IN 1976 DURING THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. IN EITHER CASE, WE WILL NEED TO KNOW WHAT WASHINGTON WANTS TO DO IN ORDER TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY IT IN THE CORRIDORS HERE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
RUMSFELD

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